

their victory at the Henley Women's Regatta to become world champions and offer on behalf of all the residents of the Second Congressional District of New Jersey our appreciation for their achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CELIA CRUZ

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the "Queen of Salsa," Celia Cruz. Ms. Cruz passed away yesterday at her home in Fort Lee, New Jersey, which is located in my Congressional District. She is survived by her husband Pedro Knight.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Celia Cruz fled to the United States to free herself of the brutal dictatorship of Fidel Castro. She became a United States citizen in 1961, and refused to return to her homeland as long as Castro remained in power. She did, however, attempt to return to Cuba for her father's funeral, but Castro refused to give her permission to attend.

Celia Cruz is widely considered to be a pioneer of salsa—reinventing and bringing Latin music to its now more familiar sound of upbeat vigorous dance rhythms and rich musical flavors. She was a true performer. Her powerful alto voice carried her concerts, which were accompanied by sensational dancing that always seemed to lift audience members from their seats as they joined along.

With a genuine love of life and passion for family and friends, Celia Cruz represented the true spirit of the Latin people through her music. Her music spread across the world. From Latin America to Asia, the music of Celia Cruz touched the lives of countless people of all races, religions, and ethnicities.

Throughout her six decade-long career, in which she recorded more than 70 albums and performed in 10 movies, Celia Cruz received many great honors, including a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, five Grammy Awards, two Latin Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smithsonian Institution and the National Medal of Arts, which President Clinton awarded her in 1994. Celia Cruz also received honorary doctorates from Yale University, the University of Miami, and Florida International University. Additionally, streets in Costa Rica, Mexico, Miami, and New York bear her name.

The world has suffered a great loss with the passing of Celia Cruz. But the world is a much richer place thanks to the timeless music that she gave all of us, which will surely be passed on from generation to generation. To all of her fans from around and the world, and to Celia Cruz herself who is still with us in spirit and looking down upon us from heaven, I say, Azucar!

KETER BETTS IS SEVENTY-FIVE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, hard work, persistence, and passion are all trademarks of

a great musician. Noted as one of the most accomplished bassists of our time, Keter Betts stands among the rare musicians who exude a very special aura. A native of Port Chester, New York, Betts possessed the drive and passion for music at an early age. Betts credits a local parade event as a major spark in his love for jazz music. After that event, Keter was certain that the drum would be his lifelong musical companion. Although Keter worked hard and mastered drumming, after a while, Betts grew tired of carrying his drums up many flights of stairs and found that the bass would serve as a more comparable instrument. He did not know that this decision would many years later bring him to the forefront of jazz music.

Keter Betts established himself in jazz music as an exemplar of excellence in musicianship. His extraordinary career spanning six decades, numerous recordings, and musical genius all stand as a monument to his contribution to jazz. Mr. Betts' professional career began in Washington DC, working with New York native and tenor saxophonist Carmen Leggio. Just fresh out of high school, Keter played his first gig with Leggio at the age of 19. This thirteen week gig in the heart of Washington, DC would set the stage for Betts to travel the world impressing listeners and musical scholars alike with his command of the acoustic bass.

Keter has performed with Jazz icons including Duke Ellington, Dinah Washington, Earl Bostic, Woody Herman, Cannonball Adderly, Charlie Byrd, and an impressive twenty four year career with the legendary Ella Fitzgerald. Keter's melodic thumping bass lines can be heard on many of her recordings. In addition, Mr. Betts has time and time again enhanced the musical recordings of numerous Jazz artists and has been a performer on over one hundred recordings including those of Count Basie, Tommy Flanagan, Sam Jones, and Kenny Burrell, among several others. Moreover, Mr. Betts also recorded a solo CD on his own label entitled Bass, Buddies, and Blues (1998).

He and his wife Mildred made Washington DC their home as newlyweds in 1953. Here they raised a family of five children. Throughout the years, Keter has committed himself to contributing to the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. Within the academic community, Keter has worked with the Washington Performing Arts Society's Concerts in Schools Program, the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts and the HeadStart program. In addition, Keter spends time imparting to future Jazz legends by serving as a music lecturer at Howard University.

Keter Betts' numerous commendations for his excellence in jazz further demonstrate his positive relationship with the Washington, DC community. Keter has been inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame. Mr. Betts has also been honored with the Linowes Leadership Award from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Living Legacy Jazz Award and most recently he was selected to receive the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation's 2003 Living Legacy Jazz Award.

Keter has shared his musical gift with international audiences and has performed on stages in South America, Europe, the Middle East and numerous stages across the United States. Through his musical genius, has and

continues to captivate, motivate, and inspire current and future generations. We are glad that his family and friends are sharing this special day with him and we pause to remember his loving wife who passed away in 2000. On this day of celebration, we commemorate the contributions of Keter Betts and wish him all of the best on his 75th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM STAPLETON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a dedicated community servant from my district, Sam Stapleton of Aspen, Colorado. Sam has overseen the Aspen Fire District Board for 50 years, many of them as its President. His hard work and determination have created a top-notch volunteer department that protects 87 square miles of land in and around Aspen. Fifty years of service is truly a remarkable feat, and I join with my colleagues in offering our congratulations and appreciation to Sam today.

Before joining the fire board, Sam and his wife Elizabeth raised sheep and cattle on the family ranch. As a landowner, Sam knew firsthand the vulnerability that he and his neighbors had to wildfire. When he was approached to become a member of the board in 1953, Sam jumped at the opportunity. There, he helped turn the Aspen Volunteer Fire Department into an effective, efficient force. Sam was instrumental in the purchase of a new, fully functional fire engine, and three new stations. Today the department owns and operates over \$4 million in equipment, assets that provide Aspen with needed protection.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Sam Stapleton's accomplishments before this Congress and this nation. His hard work has helped make the community safer, and helped to protect some of the most beautiful land in the United States. Thank you, Sam, for the service you have provided our community. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

HONORING THE QUEEN OF SALSA, CELIA CRUZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary Celia Cruz, who passed away of cancer on July 16, 2003, at the age of 78.

I join with the people of my district and other citizens of the global community in mourning the loss of the woman who was rightly called "La Reina de la Salsa." I recall fondly her solo and group performances with many musical greats, but in particular the ones with my late dear friend, Tito Puente. I recall most notably her performances at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. during the Americanos Festival and the Hispanic Heritage Awards.